

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(original) A sample heating apparatus used in pretreatment of halogen analysis, in which a sample is heat-decomposed in the presence of water to absorb halogens contained in the sample into a water medium in the form of hydrogen halide, said apparatus comprising:

a reaction tube capable of being heated by a heating means from an outer peripheral side thereof;

a sample-supplying boat being inserted into the reaction tube from a base end thereof; and

a water vapor generator of a jacket structure disposed on an outer periphery of the reaction tube, which is capable of being supplied with water and generating water vapor by heat inertia of the heating means;

said reaction tube being provided on its wall portion surrounded by the water vapor generator, with a hole for introducing the water vapor generated in the water vapor generator into the reaction tube.

2.(original) A sample heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reaction tube is connected on its tip end side with an absorption tube containing the water

medium through a flow passage disposed between the reaction tube, and the absorption tube and filled with a anticorrosive filler for condensing the water vapor.

3.(original) A sample heating apparatus used in pretreatment of halogen analysis, in which a sample is heat-decomposed in the presence of water to absorb halogens contained in the sample into a water medium in the form of hydrogen halide, said apparatus comprising:

an outer tube capable of being supplied with oxygen and being heated by a heating means from an outer peripheral side thereof;

an inner tube capable of being supplied with a carrier gas which is inserted into the outer tube from a base end thereof;

a sample-supplying boat being inserted into the inner tube from a base end thereof;  
and

a water vapor generator of a jacket structure disposed on an outer periphery of the inner tube at a position approximately corresponding to a base end portion of the outer tube which is capable of being supplied with water and generating water vapor by heat inertia of the heating means;

said inner tube being provided on its wall portion surrounded by the water vapor generator, with a hole for introducing the water vapor generated in the water vapor generator into the inner tube.

4.(original) A sample heating apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the inner tube including the water vapor generator is detachably mounted to the outer tube by fitting the water vapor generator into the base end portion of the outer tube.

5.(currently amended) A sample heating apparatus according to claim 3, ~~or 4,~~ wherein the outer tube is connected at its tip end with an absorption tube containing the water medium through a flow passage disposed between the reaction tube and the absorption tube, and filled with an anticorrosive filler for condensing the water vapor.